

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
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AMEMBASSY TOKYO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 05675

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: CH, UR, PBOR, ETRD
SUBJECT: SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS

REF: (A) PEKING 776, (B) MOSCOW 5333

1. AT MARCH 23 THIRD PARTY FUNCTION, EMBOFF DISCUSSED
SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS WITH NEWLY ARRIVED CHINESE SECOND
SECRETARY WANG KANG-HUA. WANG, WHO LOOKS ABOUT FORTY,
STATES HE WAS INVOLVED IN THE SINO-SOVIET BORDER TALKS
FOR THE PAST EIGHT YEARS.

2. SUPREME SOVIET MESSAGE: WANG, REPEATING WHAT OTHER
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CHINESE DIPLOMATS ARE STATING ON THE COCKTAIL CIRCUIT
HERE, SAID THAT PEKING WILL PROBABLY "RESPOND" TO THE
SOVIET SURFACING OF THE SUPREME SOVIET MESSAGE (REF B)
BY PUBLISHING THE TEXT OF THE MESSAGE ALONG WITH A
COMMENTARY REJECTING SOVIET ANTI-CHINESE CHARGES CARRIED
IN MARCH 20 TASS ARTICLE. WANG STATED THAT THE TASS
ARTICLE CARRIED ALL OF THE MESSAGE IN SUBSTANCE. HE

HELD THAT THE CHINESE WOULD THEREFORE NOT BE ACTING INAPPROPRIATELY BY PUBLISHING THE MESSAGE'S TEXT. (NOTE: DATT IS SENDING IN SEPARATE REPORT ON SIMILAR COMMENTS BY CHINESE MILITARY ATTACHE HERE. END NOTE.)

3. SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS - GENERAL: WANG SAID THAT SOVIET INTRANSIGENCE ON THE BORDER ISSUE IS SYMPTOMATIC" OF THE PROBLEMS IN SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS. HE REITERATED THE CHINESE LINE THAT THE SOVIETS WILL HAVE TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP TO SOLVE THE BORDER ISSUE BY HONORING THE 1969 KOSYGIN "COMMITMENT." EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER HUA KUO-FENG'S CALL FOR SOVIET TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM MONGOLIA AT THE RECENT CHINESE NATIONAL PEOPLES' CONFERENCE MEETING IS NOTEWORTHY. WANG REPLIED THAT HUA'S STATEMENT WAS NOTHING NEW. THE SOVIET TROOP BUILDUP IN MONGOLIA AND ALONG THE SINO-SOVIET BORDER SINCE 1963-66 TOUCHES ON ANOTHER AREA WHERE THE SOVIETS SHOULD "MATCH THEIR WORDS WITH DEEDS." WANG ASKED ALOUD WHY THE SOVIETS WOULD WANT TO BUILD UP SUCH A LARGE MILITARY PRESENCE UNLESS IT WAS TO THREATEN CHINA. HE SAID THAT, IN ADDITION TO SOLVING THE BORDER PROBLEM, "NORMALIZATION" OF SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS ALSO DEPENDS ON (A) SOVIET WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS FROM MONGOLIA, AND (B) LESSENING OF THE SOVIET TROOP PRESENCE ALONG THE SINO-SOVIET BORDER. (NOTE: WANG WAS TALKING IN THE CONTEXT OF A LESSENING OF SOVIET FORCES ALONG

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THE BORDER IN GENERAL, AS OPPOSED TO THE SEPARATE CHINESE DEMANDS FOR A SOVIET PULLBACK FROM "DISPUTED AREAS" IN CONNECTION WITH SOLVING THE BOUNDARY PROBLEM. END NOTE.) WHEN ASKED, HE STATED THAT THESE TWO DEMANDS CONSTITUTE ADDITIONAL CHINESE "CONDITIONS" FOR "NORMALIZING" SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS. RESPONDING TO A SECOND QUESTION, HE SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD HAVE TO PULL ALL RPT ALL SOVIET TROOPS OUT OF MONGOLIA TO SATISFY THE FIRST CONDITIONS.

4. WANG STATED FURTHER THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT RPT NOT INDICATED TO THE CHINESE THAT MOSCOW DESIRES TO SEND IL'ICHEV BACK TO PEKING FOR MORE BORDER TALKS. HE SAID THAT, AS BEFORE, IT IS UP TO THE SOVIET SIDE TO DECIDE IF THEY WANT TO RESUME THE NEGOTIATIONS.

5. TRADE TALKS: WANG PREDICTED THAT THE 1978 TRADE AGREEMENT WOULD PROBABLY RESULT IN A SLIGHT INCREASE IN SINO-SOVIET TRADE. TOON

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